Amendment to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A process for producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber which comprises extruding a film-forming solution comprising 12 to 35 wt.% polymetaphenylene isophthalamide, 4 to 10 wt.% polyvinylpyrrolidone, ~~and~~ 4 to 10 wt.% of an inorganic salt and a balance of an aprotic polar solvent through a concentric double annular spinning nozzle, while keeping the film-forming solution at 70°C or higher, thereby conducting dry-and-wet spinning, followed by a moisture retention treatment.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the polyvinylpyrrolidone has an average molecular weight of 20,000 to 100,000.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide

porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic salt is calcium chloride or a mixture of calcium chloride and lithium chloride.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the resulting porous hollow fiber membrane obtained by the dry-and-wet spinning is subjected to heat treatment in water at 80°C or higher before the moisture retention treatment.

Claim 6 (original): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 5, wherein the heat treatment is carried out in water at 80°C to 121°C.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane produced by a process according to Claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 7, wherein the porous hollow fiber membrane is produced using ~~the~~ wet heat treatment under wet heat conditions at a temperature of 100°C and a humidity of 80% for 1,000 hours or more and has a strength at break of 10MPa or more and an elongation at break of 80% or more, with the elongation at break remaining at least 80% as high as before the

wet heat treatment.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 7 which comprises a humidifying membrane.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 9 which comprises a humidifying membrane in polymer electrolyte fuel cell.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, ~~2,~~ wherein the polyvinylpyrrolidone has an average molecular weight of 20,000 to 100,000.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, ~~2,~~ wherein the inorganic salt is calcium chloride or a mixture of calcium chloride and lithium chloride.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane produced by a process according to Claim 5.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 13, wherein the porous hollow fiber membrane is produced using ~~the~~ wet heat treatment under wet heat conditions at a temperature of 100°C and a humidity of 80% for 1,000 hours or more and has a strength at break of 10MPa or more and an elongation at break of 80% or more, with the elongation at break remaining at least 80% as high as before the wet heat treatment.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 13 which comprises a humidifying membrane.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 15 which comprises a humidifying membrane in polymer electrolyte fuel cell.